

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Parking system comprising:
  - one or more payment terminals for receiving payment for parking spaces;
  - an information processing centre for receiving transaction and alarm information from the payment terminals;
  - one or more enforcement terminals for storing identification information for selected parking spaces and for periodically receiving occupancy data for the selected parking spaces from the information processing centre for displaying a map of the parking spaces with occupancy indication; and
  - a two-way telecommunications network for transmitting information in real time between the information processing centre and the payment and the enforcement terminals.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information processing centre includes a management server and an enforcement server.
3. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enforcement terminals include means for displaying the identification information for the parking spaces as graphic information.
4. A system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the graphic information includes:
  - street location of the parking spaces; and
  - parking space location numbers.
5. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein street location information includes street name, connecting streets and landmarks.
6. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the parking space occupancy data is overlaid on the parking space location numbers to indicate occupancy.

7. A system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the parking space occupancy indication depicts whether the parking space is “paid” or “expired”.
8. A method of operating a parking system having one or more payment terminals for parking spaces and one or more enforcement terminals comprising:
  - storing identification information of selected parking spaces in the enforcement terminals;
  - receiving transaction information from the payment terminals;
  - processing the transaction information;
  - periodically transferring real time space occupancy data regarding the selected parking spaces to the enforcement terminals;
  - displaying the selected parking space information and the occupancy data on the enforcement terminal to provide an indication whether each selected parking space is “paid” or “expired”.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, which further includes:
  - receiving alarm information from the payment terminals; and
  - processing the alarm information to manage the parking system.
10. A method of enforcing a parking system having one or more payment terminals for parking spaces and one or more enforcement terminals comprising:
  - storing identification information of selected parking spaces in the enforcement terminals;
  - receiving transaction information from the payment terminals;
  - processing the transaction information to provide parking space occupancy data;
  - transferring real time space occupancy data regarding the selected parking spaces to the enforcement terminals;
  - displaying the selected parking space information and the occupancy data on the enforcement terminal to provide an indication whether each

selected parking space is “paid” or “expired”.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, which includes transferring the space occupancy data regarding the selected parking spaces to the enforcement terminals periodically.
12. A method as claimed in claim 10, which includes transferring the space occupancy data regarding the selected parking spaces to the enforcement terminals when requested by the enforcement terminal.
13. A parking enforcement system for a parking system having one or more payment terminals for receiving payment for parking spaces comprising:
  - an enforcement server for receiving transaction information from the payment terminals and for generating occupancy data for the parking spaces in real time; and
  - one or more enforcement terminals for storing identification information for selected parking spaces and for receiving occupancy data for the selected parking spaces from the enforcement server for displaying a map of the parking spaces with an indication of occupancy.
14. A parking enforcement system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the enforcement terminal receives the occupancy data periodically.
15. A parking enforcement system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the enforcement terminal receives the occupancy data on demand.
16. An enforcement system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the enforcement terminals include means for displaying the identification information for the parking spaces as graphic information.

17. An enforcement system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the graphic information includes:
  - street location having street name, connecting streets and landmarks of the parking spaces; and
  - parking space location numbers.
18. An enforcement system as claimed in claim 16, which includes means for overlaying the occupancy data on the parking space location numbers to indicate occupancy.